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species) have filiform leaves below the surface of the water, and spreading leaves above. The floating heart, frog's-bit, duck-weed, pond-lily, *Marsilia*, etc., with their hanging roots, or slender stems, present no opposing surface to water. *Polygonum aquaticum*, with its float-like leaves at the ends of long and slender petioles, is not likely to be torn from its place of growth, however swift the current.

The form and arrangement of the leaves of conifers and heaths are well adapted to wind-swept regions. The conifers grow in the highest Alpine regions the world over, where they are subjected to the most violent winds and storms; but their leaves, being so very small and unusually well secured to the branches, offer but little resistance to the winds. The winds that set the oaks, elms and maples in an uproar pass over the pine, larch, and spruce with a whisper. On the wind-swept moors and downs of England the fine-leaved heaths grow in the greatest profusion.

Possibly it might be worth while for some botanists to consider why each family or species of plants has leaves of a shape peculiar to itself, and why some other form would not do as well, keeping in view the plant's place of growth and the work it has to do. The function of leaves as depositories of food and moisture, and that of bulb-scales, bud-scales, spines, tendrils, pitchers, fly-traps, etc., has been well explained, but are there not some other interesting generalizations that are known to some botanists and which have not been made known to botanists at large?

The thick and glossy leaves of the Ericaceae, the much-divided leaves of the Umbelliferae, the thick and succulent leaves of many salt-marsh plants, and other well-known facts, suggest questions which are not easily answered in a satisfactory manner by one man; but, by the mouths of many witnesses, the design of some leaf-forms may be established.

Do the rings of beets show growth during any definite period of time?

Roxbury, Mass.

H. L. CLAPP.

Gleanings in Westchester County.—In October, 1880, I stumbled upon a small cluster of *Aster amethystinus*, Nutt., about half a mile North of Wood-Lawn Cemetery, on a new road leading to Mount Vernon. Several species of *Aster* were growing near by, but I failed to find this one in any other place, though I searched for it through fields and along road-sides for a mile or more around.

In July, 1881, I found *Scirpus sylvaticus*, L., and *Melanthium Virginicum*, L., in a small bog about a mile East of Tarrytown. In neglected yards and gardens within the village proper, *Galinsoga parviflora*, Cav., has appeared in profusion, but as a recent interloper.

Yonkers, N. Y.

E. C. HOWE,

A Query.—Can any reader of the BULLETIN forward proof that *Carex Knieskernii*, Dew., is a good species? Dr. Gray, in comparing it with *C. Sullivantii*, says: "Perigynia glabrous and more evidently nerved." Dewey (in Wood) refers to an "oblong achenium." Now, *C. Sullivantii* has an oblong achenium, but it is always abortive. Dr.